REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsushige AMANO et al.

Leffrey R. Filipek

Registration No. 41,471 Attorney for Applicants

JRF/ck Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 January 5, 2006